THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) There are already four trains running between Howrah, Vijayawada, Gudur and Madras via Kharagpur where passengers can entrain for going to Tirupáti. From Vijayawada, Gudur and Madras there are convenient trains available to proceed to Tirupati. Hence it is not considered necessary to introduce any additional train from Kharagpur to Tirupati due to:

(i) the volume of traffic offering at Kharagpur for Tirupati would not warrant the running of a train.

(ii) There are adequate trains by which the passengers could proceed from this area to Tirupati without difficulty.

(iii) Already more important trains have been introduced and as of now the coaching stock and locomotive position would not permit of such a train being considered.

Hostel subsidy to Railway employees

310. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the criterion for grant of hostel subsidy to Railway employees whose children have to study in residential educational institutions;

(b) whether it is a fact that hostel subsidy is restricted to only such railway employees who have transferable jobs;

(c) whether Government are aware that even some of the railway employees having no transfer liability are compelled to keep their wards in residential schools/colleges due to non-availability of educational facilities at their places of duty;

(d) if so, why such railway employees are denied hostel subsidy; and

(e) whether Government propose to extend hostel subsidy facility to such category of railway employees?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) Railway employees, who on account of transfer, are obliged to keep their children in the hostel of a residential school away from the Station at which they are posted and/or residing are eligible for the grant of hostel subsidy.

(b) No, Sir. Payment of hostel subsidy to Railway employees is made on the same basis as applicable to all other Central Government employees and is related to and connected with actual transfer and not with transferability;

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Addition of items for sale through Public Distribution System

311. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA:
SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:
SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided recently to add a few more essential commodities for sale through fair price shops under the Public Distribution System; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO): (a) and (b) The Central Government has already been supplying seven essential commodities namely wheat, rice, sugar, edible oil, soft coke kerosene and controlled cloth to the States/Union Territories